(*b*) whether they have any proposal or scheme to introduce some form of social security to the aged citizen, who is unable to work, in the State ;

(*c*) whether they would call for the opinion and suggestions from voluntary organisations which have undertaken the care of the aged, as a special service, before finalising the State Government Plan these matters ?

A.—Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Finance).—

(*a*) and (*b*) Reference is invited to page 31 of the Fina e Minister's Budget Speech.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of reply to (*a*) and (*b*) above.

Grant of Old Age Pension in the State.

*Q.—272. Sri B. NANJAPPA (Cubbonpet).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they would consider the grant of Old Age Pension in the State ; and if so, from when ;

(*b*) what is the quantum and what are the age limits proposed to be covered ?

A.—Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Finance).—

(*a*) and (*b*) Reference is invited to Page 31 of Finance Minister's Budget Speech.

Sri P. F. D'MELLOW.—As the greater and larger of beneficiaries of the scheme announced by the Hon. Finance Minister are likely to be individuals who are either illiterate or semi-literate, will the Government be pleased to consider making the rules and procedure for submitting applications as simple as possible particularly in the matter of production of proof of age ?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—The suggestion made by the Hon. Member will be taken into consideration and Government will do its level best to see that the rules are framed early and that they are brought into force as early as possible.

Sri B. NANJAPPA.—Will the Government consider the question of reducing the age limit from 70 to 60 ?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—We want to stick on to whatever has been announced.

Sri P. F. D'MELLOW.—In view of the fact that the quantum of relief intended to be sanctioned is very small, will the Government be pleased to consider the question of framing rules inviting voluntary agencies to come forward and admit these people with a view to helping them and avoiding the possibility of exploitation ?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—This supplementary consists of two parts. For the first part my answer is that looking to the financial position of this State, we have declared that Rs. 15 will be the pension and I am not in a position to say whether it is possible for the Government in the future to increase it from 15 to 16 or 20. For the second part, I would say that if there are voluntary agencies who have experience—I know the Hon. Member has better experience—we will take their advice and if they are going to be useful, we will accept them.

Sri B. NANJAPPA.—Will the Finance Minister tell me as to what the neighbouring States are giving to the old people?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—There are 2 neighbouring States. In one State, it is 70 years and in another it is 60. We have accepted 70 because it suits us best.

Sri ANNARAO GANAMUKHI.—Do Government intend extending this concession to physically handicapped persons?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—The word used in the budget speech is 'destitutes'. Those persons who cannot get any help from any of their relatives, come under the category of destitutes. We can define it precisely while framing the rules.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಎಚ್. ಗೌಡ.—ನರಕಾರದವರು ಒಂದು ಎಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಜನ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸಹಾಯ ಹೊಂದುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆಯೇ?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—For the first time in the history of this State, Government is making an announcement in this regard. We have to frame rules and call for applications. How can we know how many applications would come at this stage?

Sri A. KRISHNA SHETTY.—Will the Government consider the question of providing shelters to the destitutes?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—The announcement is only regarding payment of a pension of Rs. 15; nothing more, nothing less.

Construction of a Bridge across river Varada near Joladagudde in Chandragatte Hobli, Sorab Taluk.

*Q.—219. Sri V. S. LAKSHMIKANTHAPPA (Sagar).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the date of sanction of the bridge across the river Varada near Joladagudde in Chandragatte Hobli, Sorab Taluk;

(*b*) the amount spent so far;

(*c*) the probable time required to complete the construction of the same?

*A.—Sri G. B. SHANKAR RAO (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Public Works).—

(*a*) July 1957.

(*b*) Rs. 67,843.

(*c*) About 2 years.